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Thursday, May 22 - Wednesday, May 28, 2014
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Pupils learn fishing skills at Farmoor Reservoir

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Final member of baton relay line-up announced

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE
See the new section inside

A TRAGIC ACCIDENT

Woman was planning to visit sick relative when she was hit by fire engine

AN INQUEST into the death of an elderly woman hit by a fire engine heading to an emergency call on Cowley Road was opened on Tuesday.

Sultan Begum, 79, who lived nearby on Cowley Road, Oxford, was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, after the incident last Friday.

Mrs Begum died at the hospital later that evening.

An inquest at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court at County Hall, New Road, was opened and adjourned.

A provisional inquest date was set by the coroner for November 4 to start at 11.30am.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The incident at about 3.50pm shut Cowley Road between Shelley Road and Howard Street for about four hours.

The fire engine, based at Rewley Road, Oxford, had been called out to an emergency when it hit Mrs Begum.

She was said to be crossing the road while walking to her sick brother-in-law's house when the accident happened.

Thames Valley Police is

· *Continued on page 3*

Downton star visits children's ward

See page 7

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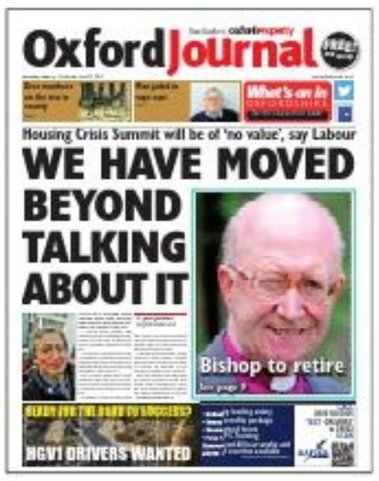
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Laurie wants Oxford to be 'world class'

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A NEW manager who will help with the running of the city centre has been appointed.

Laurie Taylor, who is currently the community response team manager with the council, is set to start in her new role on June 30.

The post of city centre manager had been vacant since Gordon Reid stood down from the position in January.

She will control the management for the city centre, as well as coordinating a programme of improved services to benefit shoppers, visitors and businesses.

"I'm delighted to be appointed to this challenging and varied role," said Laurie.

"I am looking forward to representing the world class city of Oxford as a great place to live, work and visit.

"This is an exciting time for the city with the new Westgate Centre progressing well through the planning process, as well as the Oxpens development and station redevelopment being discussed at masterplan stages.

"I'm looking forward to how this role can make a difference."

Bob Price, leader of Oxford City Council, said: "She comes from a very good background and has got some fantastic personal relationship skills, which is ideal for the job.

"It's a very important role for us as we move towards the redevelopment of the Westgate Centre, and there's two very important functions which Laurie has excellent qualities for.

"One is to establish good links with our current retail offer in the city centre, and also to ensure that we maintain the quality of the city centre environment as much as we can."

Graham Jones, spokesperson for ROX (Rescue Oxford) which helps businesses within the city centre, said: "We have to make sure Oxford stays very competitive as a shopping centre.

"I think she's got a lot of challenges ahead, and I would be happy to meet with her, work with her and see what opportunities can be grabbed."

• City council leader Bob Price (inset) hopes new city centre manager Laurie Taylor will be beneficial during the Westgate redevelopment

Grants set to encourage sustainable travel

ORGANISATIONS in Headington are being given the chance to bid for £15,000 of funding, to encourage their employees to leave their car at home and walk, bike or use public transport to get to work.

It is part of Oxfordshire County Council's Travel Choices initiative, which wants to get workers in the area travelling in more sustainable ways.

The money for the project was given to the council as part of a £5m pot from the Department for Transport.

To be eligible for a grant, businesses must show they are committed to matching the grant by undertaking various activities, such as travel surveys and promoting sustainable transport.

Peter Lerner, the council's deputy director of strategy, infrastructure and planning, said: "Sustainable transport isn't just about big changes to the road systems or park and rides.

"Everyone can do their bit – a lot of people would like to walk or cycle to work, but there is often something that is holding them back.

"If it's as simple as shower facilities or bike storage, the grant funding can help with that.

"If businesses support their employees to travel in a more sustainable way, we all benefit from less pollution and less congestion."

For further information about the grants, go to oxfordshire.gov.uk/businesstravelgrants.

News Bites

Compost offer to residents

OXFORD: A free compost giveaway held by Oxford City Council is taking place on Saturday.

Residents can get the soil improver made from their old food and garden waste from Florence Park between 11am and 1pm.

Each household can claim up to one free load, and will need to bring their own bag or container. Compost bins will also be offered on the day for £10 while stocks last.

License refunds for students

OXFORD: Students in the city are being reminded that they may be able to claim a refund of £36.67 on their television license if they are moving home for the summer.

Any students who have three months remaining on their license can make a claim if they are leaving their accommodation and moving to a licensed address.

Martin Dyan, spokesperson for TV Licensing, said: "The student refund is brilliant news and we encourage those who bought their license at the start of the academic year to take advantage of it."

Keeping active in the summer

OXFORD: The city council's GO Active scheme is encouraging people to join up with the Bury Knowle Joggers, and to start running over the summer.

Anyone over 16 can join the group free of charge, and the council is keen to promote jogging's physical and mental health benefits.

Bury Knowle jogger Linzi Skinner said: "There is no such thing as a stereotypical runner - everyone can do it!"

The group meets every Monday at 6pm in Bury Knowle Park. For more information, email thale@oxford.gov.uk.

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Badger march comes to Oxford

PROTESTORS walking from Gloucester to London against what they call a 'brutal and barbaric' government policy of badger culling will be stopping in Oxford to give a talk at the weekend.

The group of 12 start their 112 mile Great Badger Trail in Gloucester today and will arrive at Cornmarket Street in Oxford on Sunday, with author and ecologist Hugh Warwick set to make a speech.

Ama Menec is taking part in the walk, and she said: "The idea had me jumping around the room with glee at the prospect of having a march from Gloucester to London.

"People out there think the cull is all over but we know it's not. We are a small army but as we move across the country we will grow and grow."

Oxfordshire is currently on the edge of the tuberculosis buffer zone, although culling isn't expected to take place in the region at the moment.

Anti-cull campaigner Dominic Dyer of the Badger Trust said: "This is a fantastic protest which shows the determination, spirit and commitment of normal people who are completely opposed to this shameful cull.

"Hopefully many people will tag along and show the government what England really thinks about this unscientific and unnecessary cull."

For more information about the march and a list of talks, go to greatbadgertrail.weebly.com.

New hospital facilities underway for patients

DOCTORS at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington are eagerly awaiting the construction of the new Cardiology Outpatient and Imaging facilities at the site.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Dr Saul Myerson and Dr Jim Newton are hoping that the new area, next to the Oxford Heart Centre, will mean appointments should be quicker and more comfortable for patients.

It is due to open later this year, allowing hospital staff to perform more scans, collaborate further in research and perform more complex assessments and lifesaving procedures.

Dr Myerson said: "It's going to be such an improvement for our patients. They will now have a bright airy space, comfortable waiting areas and more privacy.

"There will also be more advanced machines bringing the very latest technology available to our patients. It is a very exciting time."

Dr Newton added: "This development is going to transform the way we work and really improve the whole experience for patients.

"I will now be a consultant who is embedded within the department, right next to our technicians, which can only be good for communication and making the whole medical process more efficient.

"We are all very excited about the development, and every time we walk past and hear all the building noise, that excitement builds.

"We are really looking forward to getting in and letting our patients see these new improved facilities."

The new development has benefitted from numerous donations, including £60,000 from the Doris Field Charitable Trust towards a state of the art 3D heart scanner.

Andrew House, head of major gifts at the NHS Trust, said: "Over the past two years, we have seen a huge amount of fundraising, from dinners and dances to marathons, variety shows and even chessathons.

"We are incredibly grateful to all those who have worked so hard to help to make this new facility a reality."

Pupils learn fishing skills at Farmoor Reservoir

CHILDREN from two Oxford schools were among a group who learned all about fishing at Farmoor Reservoir.

The youngsters from Mabel Pritchard Special School, in Cuddesdon Way, and St Gregory the Great Catholic School, in Cricket Road, were among six who took part in the day on April 30.

Pupils took part in bug hunting, fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing, before learning about the reservoir and finishing with a cookery lesson.

The event was run by Fishing 4 Schools, The Angling Trust and Thames Water.

Charles Jardine, of Fishing 4 Schools, said: "It was inspirational to bring fishing to such a diverse group of people of all abilities and backgrounds, who had never even thought of trying fishing before.

"Everyone took part, including the teachers and carers."

Will Barnard, Thames Water's angling development and fisheries manager, said: "Farmoor Reservoir is nationally recognised as one of the finest fisheries in the UK.

"It's important that communities and young people have opportunities to experience this for themselves.

"There is so much more to Thames Water than supplying water and removing waste, and our reservoirs being used for angling and other sports is a brilliant example."

• Fishing 4 Schools coach Lee Hooper teaches children about fly fishing

Community in mourning after woman's death

• From front page

currently investigating the incident and confirmed, as the Journal went to press, that enquiries were still ongoing but nobody had been arrested in connection with the collision.

More than 500 people attended Mrs Begum's funeral on Sunday morning at Central Oxford Mosque in Manzil Way, Cowley.

Her body has since been flown to Pakistan for burial.

Cowley Marsh city councillors Sajjad Malik and Mohammed Abbasi attended the funeral.

Cllr Malik said: "It was sad and sombre.

"There were quite a few family members and also a large local Muslim attendance.

"Unfortunately, the day she had the fatal crash she was visiting her brother-in-law, because he has not been well for a while, and sadly she met her death."

Cllr Abbasi added: "Her death was very unusual.

"It is the first time this has happened in our community. It was very unfortunate."

Mohammed Alyas, secretary at the Central Oxford Mosque said: "Her death was unexpected. We don't expect these sort of things to happen.

"A sudden death like this is so sad. It was a tragic accident."

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service issued a statement on Saturday.

It said: "Our thoughts are with her family following this tragic incident.

"The Fire and Rescue Service is co-operating fully with the police investigation."

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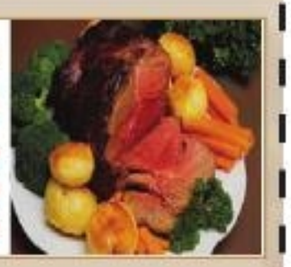

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Residents vote for their leaders at city elections

THOUSANDS of people are expected to vote today in the Oxford City Council elections. Jack Johnson looks into the make-up of the current council and why it is important for residents to step out and make their vote count.

TODAY'S local elections give residents the chance to have their say on who is making the big decisions in Oxford.

The city council is responsible for running services such as planning, housing, environmental health, electoral registration, refuse collection, leisure and parks, markets and fairs, tourism and cemeteries.

As a district council, the authority has the final say on, for instance, new developments within the city's boundaries and improving the local facilities.

The city council is currently under Labour control, holding 30 seats to the Liberal Democrats' 12 and Green Party's five. Mick Haines, the only independent on the council, holds the other seat.

There have been no Conservatives on the city council for 14 years – when Barbara Burgess represented the old Marston ward in 2000.

It has been 34 years since the Tories have had majority control in the city.

Today residents will decide on the future of half of the city council's 48 members, with the other 24 up for election in 2016.

All 24 wards are involved in the elections, but only one councillor from each will be elected this year.

This includes city council leader Bob Price who is up for election in the Hinksey Park ward.

However, residents in Summertown will elect two councillors after Stuart McCready's resignation on April 3 prompted a by-election.

Residents can vote between 7am until 10pm at nearby polling stations.

The closest polling stations to your address on the electoral register are printed on polling cards sent out over the last few weeks..

Parish council elections in Blackbird Leys and Old Marston which were due to take place today are no longer being held.

There were not enough candidates nominated in Blackbird Leys to trigger a poll and therefore all have been elected unopposed.

Due to the death of one of the candidates, Mr Roy Jones, the Old Marston Parish Council election has been cancelled and will be held within 35 days of today instead.

Leading party members on elections:

Bob Price, Labour leader of Oxford City Council

"We're pretty confident about most of the seats that we currently hold and we would quite like to add to it.

"We gained our 30th seat by winning a by-election in North ward. That was an important target for us, and we are keen to try and extend by winning in Headington and St. Margaret's."

Jean Fooks, leader of the Lib Dem group

"Some of the seats are vulnerable.

"We will be doing our best to hold all of the ones we currently do and it will be nice if we could gain one or two.

"We do what we do with Lib Dems because we believe in community and supporting it and that actually feeds through to the national picture as well."

Craig Simmons, leader of the Green group

"Support for the Greens remains strong in Oxford and people are recognising that it is good for democracy to have an active opposition to the Labour-run city council.

"We have proven that we can constructively engage on a wide range of issues, from social housing, local economy, budget-setting and environmental policy."

Mark Bhagwandin, chairman of the Oxford Conservative Policy Forum.

"I think there will be some surprises simply because the Conservatives are not sitting back this year.

"I know we won't get half of the seats, but we are being cautiously optimistic.

"What I am confident about is that you will see a return to the city council by the Conservatives."

Euro election candidates vie for votes

OXFORD'S residents are set to vote in the European Parliament elections today.

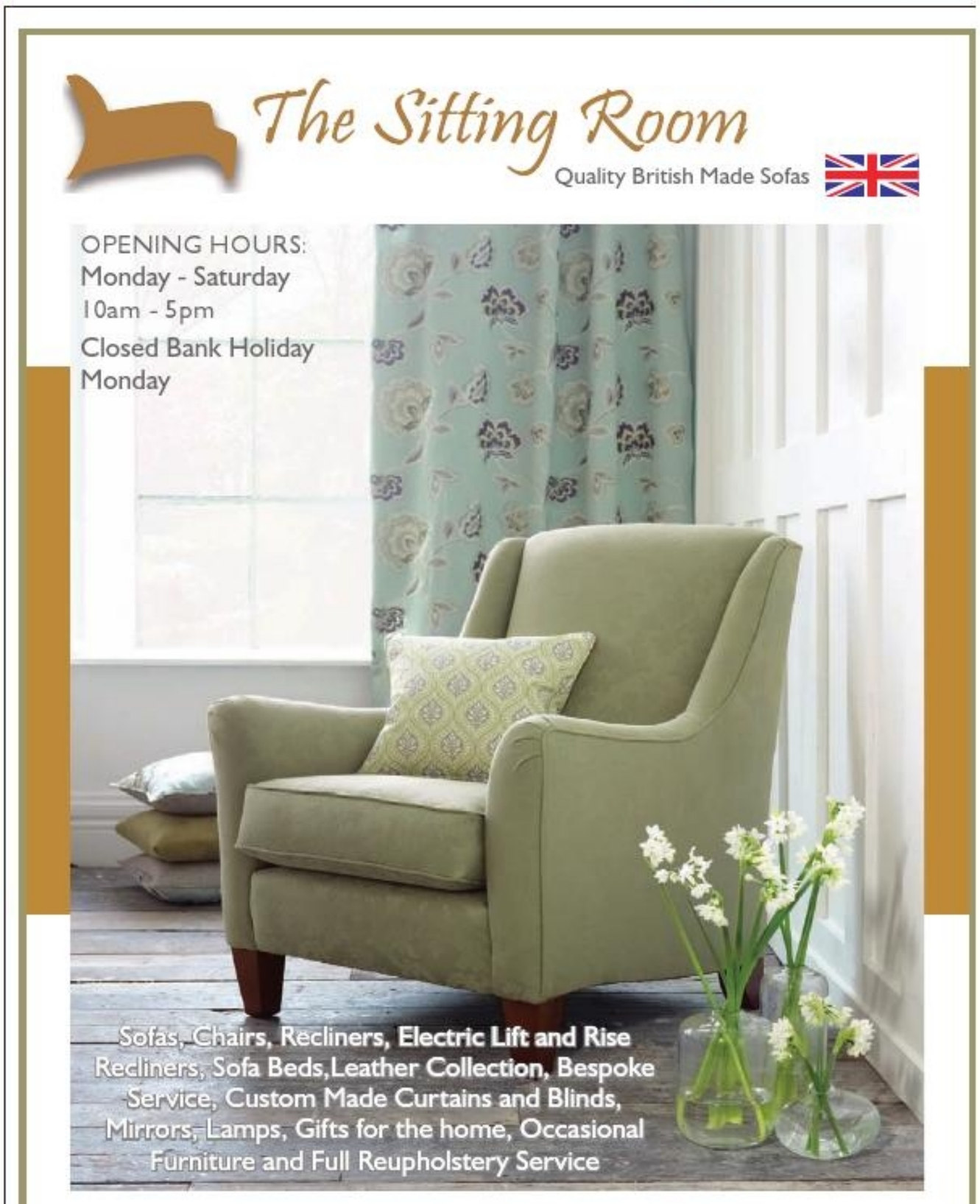
The city is within the South East region, which, as well as Oxfordshire, covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Voters will elect 10 members to the European Parliament out of 119 candidates.

Among those is UK Independence party leader Nigel Farage - already an MEP.

The other nine South East MEP's are Daniel Hannan, Richard Ashworth, Sharon Bowles, Keith Taylor, Njri Deva, Marta Andreasen, James Elles, Peter Skinner and Catherine Bearder.

Fighting for their positions are 10 Labour candidates, 10 Conservative, 10 Liberal Democrat, 10 UKIP, 10 Green, 10 BNP, 10 Socialist Party of Great Britain, three Liberty GB, 10 Independence from Europe, nine Christian Peoples Alliance, 10 Peace, three Your Voice, one Roman Party and one Harmony Party candidate. Votes will be counted on Sunday.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Downton actor visits hospital

DOWNTON Abbey star Jo Froggatt made a special visit to the John Radcliffe Hospital last week, joining a music therapy class for children.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• (From left to right) Jo Froggatt, Thomaz Lusby-Roberts, Andy Stevens and Carolyn Mayling enjoy the music therapy session

Patients in the Bellhouse-Drayson Ward of the Children's Hospital, on Headley Way, Headington, played instruments and sung nursery rhymes and pop songs with music therapist Andy Stevens.

Mrs Froggatt's visit to the hospital was in celebration of the first 'Wear Rainbow Day', organised by Maidenhead-based children's charity Rosie's Rainbow Fund.

Carolyn Mayling set up the charity after her 11-year-old daughter Rosie suffered a fatal pulmonary haemorrhage in 2003.

Rosie's Rainbow Fund raises money for bereavement support, a parents therapy room at the John Radcliffe, music therapy and research.

Last Friday Mrs Mayling handed over a cheque of £500 to the hospital and presented nine-year-old Thomaz Lusby-Roberts, who is blind and has Cerebral Palsy, with an iPad.

Mrs Mayling said: "Rosie would just be so proud.

"It makes the whole thing worthwhile. It's a reason to go on."

Actress Mrs Froggatt joined Thomaz, three-year-old Chrislin Bose, who has bone cancer, and eight-year-old Summerlea Burnett, who is recovering from a cardiac arrest, in music therapy.

The actress, who plays Anna Bates in the popular drama and is patron of the charity, said: "We started the day to raise awareness.

"It is wonderful to have music therapy and to help the funding of toys and arts and crafts materials that kids need for long stays in hospital.

"I feel really passionate and the music therapy class was really fun."

Mr Stevens said he feels "privileged and honoured" to work with children.

"I see the wellness in them despite the illness," he said.

"They still communicate and it is therapeutic for their wellbeing and it affects them physically in being constructive and having fun."

Thomaz's mum Emma Lusby-Roberts, was full of praise for the charity.

She said: "Thomaz was in a lot of pain when he was in hospital, but he met Andy and he had a big smile on his face.

"What they do here is absolutely brilliant."

Race announces lead charity

OXFAM has been confirmed as the lead charity for this year's Oxford Half Marathon with hospice Helen & Douglas House named official local charity.

This year's race is on October 12, the fourth time the race will be held on the streets of Oxford.

Mel Taylor, charity director for Oxford Half Marathon Ltd, said: "We are delighted to announce two key Oxford-based charities for this year's race.

"This is the first step of our ambition to develop the race into one of the largest charity fundraisers in the south east."

Erica Dallimore, running events manager for Cowley-based Oxfam GB, said: "As an Oxford-based charity working globally to overcome poverty, this is a fantastic opportunity to engage the local community and raise vital funds for our work."

Poppy Hanbury, senior community and events fundraiser at Helen & Douglas House in Magdalen Road, added: "It's wonderful to be part of a local event which involves and benefits the local community."

Half marathon organisers are also inviting other local charities to become official partners ahead of the race, and have until May 30 to register their interest.

For more details about this year's race, go to oxfordhalf.co.uk.

News Bites

Show of bravery

WEST OXFORD: Six actors, each representing an ordinary Oxford resident, will tell their stories of courage at a West Oxford Community Centre show next Thursday.

Stories include a teenager who stood up for a homeless man, to a young woman arrested for protests against fracking.

STAND runs until June 8 at the Botley Road centre.

Burglary charges

OXFORD: A man has been charged with two counts of burglary of homes in the city.

The first took place at a house in Union Street on April 4, when cash, an iPad, cameras and other items were stolen.

A second burglary in Crescent Road saw a rear door smashed open and an iMac, cameras and a mobile phone among the stolen items.

The man, of no fixed abode, appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court last Friday.

Kassam rich list

OXON: Former Oxford United chairman Firoz Kassam has been named in the Sunday Times' Rich List 2014.

Kassam, who owns the Kassam Stadium in Grenoble Road, Oxford, came in at 367th with £250m.

The Tanzanian-born businessman, 59, was chairman of the club between 1999 and 2006.

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SCAN ME

Concern over future of mental health service

AN OXFORDSHIRE mental health service's future has been thrown into doubt after it was revealed that its funding is set to be withdrawn over the next two years.

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The Complex Needs Service, run by the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, is facing having its funding from the Department of Health stopped as part of government cutbacks.

Funding would be reduced by 50 per cent in 2014-15, and then by 100 per cent from April next year.

It means that the service's therapy groups in Wallingford, Witney and Adderbury could stop running this year, and the groups in Oxford by the end of next year.

Ken Williamson, from the Keep Our NHS Public Oxfordshire campaign group, said: "It's disastrous.

"The Complex Needs Service is recognised as a nationally important thing, which has now had its funding withdrawn over this year and next.

"Presumably the government thinks that the local mental health services will be in a position to fund it by taking money from somewhere else.

"There is considerable disquiet in the service itself, and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust are wrestling with it at the moment."

A statement from the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust said: "The Complex Needs Service for people living with personality disorders has been funded directly by the Department of Health for several years.

"Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust have agreed within the contract negotiations for 2014-15 to a transitional plan for services for people with personality disorders to bring provision into the future.

"The needs of people living with personality disorders are a priority for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

"Working within difficult financial constraints, we are reviewing our service configurations to deliver the best possible treatments for this client group."

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Final member of baton relay line-up announced

OXFORD City Council has announced its fourth baton bearer who will take part in the Queen's Baton Relay, coming to Oxford on June 6.

Simon Price, 18, from Henwood, will join fellow bearers Ian Warland, Juliet Field and Johnny Pemberton in carrying the baton at the Cutteslowe Summer Festival in Sunnymead Park.

The relay forms part of the celebrations for this year's Commonwealth Games, which start in Glasgow on July 23.

Ian Brooke, head of leisure parks and communities at Oxford City Council, said: "This will be a fantastic community event with something for everyone.

"By bringing together cultural, nature and sports activities in one of the city's great parks, Oxford's event will undoubtedly create some great memories and start to inspire people about the Commonwealth Games."

Dame Kelly Holmes, president of Commonwealth Games England, said: "I'm encouraging everyone in Oxford to get involved when the Queen's Baton Relay comes to Cutteslowe.

"Sunnymead Park will be hosting an incredible celebration of sport on June 6 and everyone can join in."

• *(From left) Ian Warland, Juliet Field, Simon Price and Johnny Pemberton will take part in the Queen's Baton Relay in Oxford*

News Bites

Fat sunflowers

OXFORD: Children across Oxford are being challenged by national charity Bibic to grow the 'fattest sunflower face', and help raise money for young people with social and learning difficulties.

The competition is open to youngsters aged up to 16-years-old, who can attempt to grow the fat-faced sunflowers with special seeds.

Email hello@potterandrest.co.uk for more details.

Robbery charges

OXFORD: Two men have been charged in connection with the robbery of Stan James bookmakers, The Roundway, Oxford, on March 13.

The men, aged 19 and 18, were also charged with possession of an imitation firearm.

Both have been released on police bail to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on June 2.

Museum funding

OXFORD: The Ashmolean Museum has been awarded £10,000 from national education charity Ernest Cook Trust, to be used towards appointing an education officer to work with secondary schools.

It is hoped the new officer will be able to help the museum expand its work with schools, and offer more online education resources.

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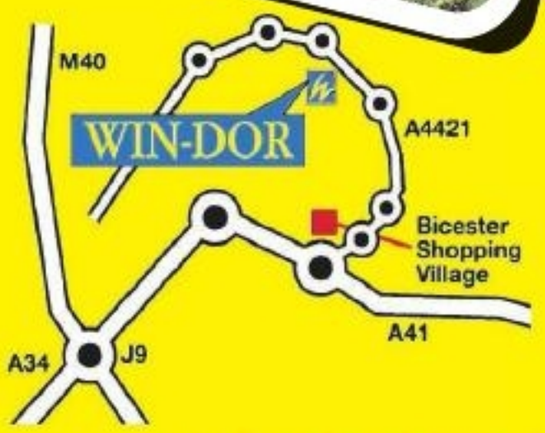

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Grease is set for the New Theatre stage from next week. See overleaf.

Grease is back in style

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for the full guide of what to see and do in Oxfordshire

Teenage Kicks

PUNK rock group The Undertones, best known for their 1978 hit 'Teenage Kicks', will perform at Oxford's O2 Academy on Saturday.

The band got back together in 1999 after splitting up 16 years previously, and last year released 'An Introduction to The Undertones'.

Doors open at 6.30pm. For more information go to o2academyoxford.co.uk.

Comedy laugh

STAND-UP comedian Josh Widdicombe brings his latest tour 'Incidentally' to the Oxford Playhouse stage on Tuesday.

Josh has appeared on 'The Last Leg', 'Mock the Week' and '8 Out Of 10 Cats'.

Tuesday's show starts at 7.30pm. For more details go to oxfordplayhouse.com.

Comic lecture

DANIEL Bye speaks about value in his comedic lecture, presented at Oxford's Pegasus Theatre from today until Saturday.

The show features bizarre facts and extraordinary stories, described as occasionally shambolic and often misguided, but a joy to watch.

For more information go to pegasustheatre.org.uk.

Sandy and Danny return

HIT musical Grease is retold by the Oxford Operatic Society in a brand new production at the New Theatre from Tuesday.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Grease gained notoriety with the popular 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

And the songs from that film have recently been made available for drama groups to use - something the Oxford Operatic Society is making the most of.

It means the society's performance will feature more than 20 songs, many with their own dance number.

"Rehearsals have been really good, but it's been very hard on the cast because there's so many songs," said show director Dave Crewe.

"But it's been thoroughly enjoyable because there's so much for the company to do, and you find with some shows there isn't as much as you'd like there to be.

"The nature of Grease is that it's all about rock and roll, and that encourages much more of a vibe with it and you can go with it how you want to."

The operatic society's adaptation of Grease concentrates more on the show's original story about how America changed culturally from the 1950s to 1960s. Whereas Grease the film focused on the love story between Danny and Sandy - although this remains a major part of the operatic society's production.

"Rock and roll and the advent of the teenager saw the start of the move into the liberal 1960s, and that's what the show is actually about," Dave added.

"We look at it much more from that angle as well as just a love story.

"Sandy is a metaphor for how America changed in the '50s when it was all repressed and conservative, into the '60s when it became far more liberal and enlightened, and much more about free love."

The first performance is on Tuesday, and runs until May 31. For more information, go to newtheatreoxford.org.uk.

• Phil Weller, Andrew Stott and Andy Halliday play Kenickie, Roger and Sonny respectively

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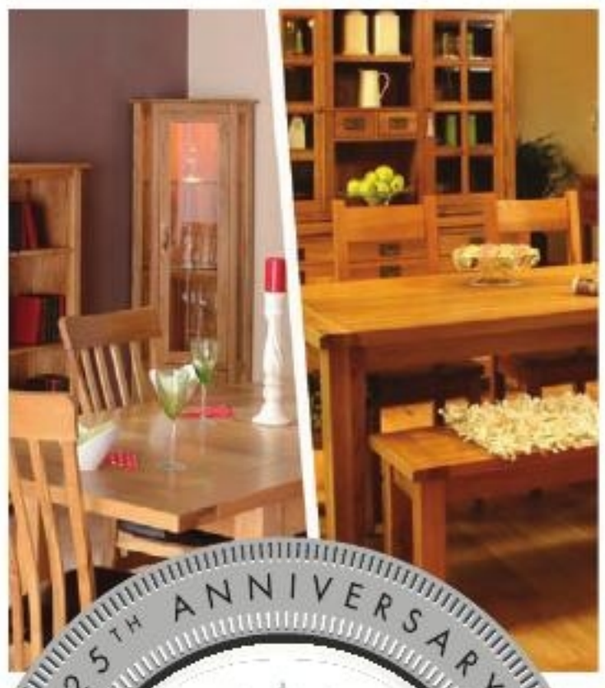

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Gareth Malone

POPULAR choirmaster Gareth Malone is on his first ever live tour, which stops at Oxford's New Theatre on Saturday.

He is joined by New Voices for the show, whose eponymous debut album was released last November.

To book the 7.30pm show go to newtheatreoxford.org.uk.

Duo tribute

A TRIBUTE show to the Everly Brothers, renowned as one of the greatest harmony duos of all time, comes to Henley's Kenton Theatre tomorrow.

Colin and Steve Temple recreate the iconic pair's music with classic songs including 'Walk Right Back', 'Love Hurts' and 'Cathy's Clown'.

For more information, go to kentontheatre.co.uk.

Circus in town

JOHN Lawson's Circus returns to Millets Farm near Abingdon from Saturday, with new acts and routines ready for half term.

The entirely human cast includes aerial skills and clowning around to entertain visitors.

Show times are at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Go to milletsfarmcentre.com for more information.

Pirate Gran a treasure

THE adventures of Pirate Gran are brought to life at Didcot's Cornerstone Theatre on Sunday, in this swashbuckling children's production.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Gran is a little old lady who bakes and knits. It would be impossible to guess she is also a pirate if it wasn't for her wicked sense of humour and the crocodile living under her bed.

The show is based on the Pirate Gran books by Geraldine Durrant, who began writing in 2007 after taking a month off work.

"I'd never really planned to write a book, but I saw a competition that the BBC were running to write a short story for children," said Geraldine.

"As I'd taken the month off, I thought I'd have a go - so I did and I won it!"

The show has been adapted for the stage by Scamp Theatre, who will be performing a musical version of the story.

Geraldine recently went to see the show for the first time with her grandchildren, and said: "It's just wonderful, I'm thrilled to see what they have done with it.

"I'd dreamed up Pirate Gran as a story which I used to tell my eldest grandchildren when they were little, so they've grown up with her and the books are dedicated to them.

"It was very special to go as a family to see it on stage.

"What they do is highly imaginative and there's lots of lovely little touches, like for example Gran's chair in her sitting room had three ordinary legs and one pirate peg leg.

"You find yourself looking round thinking 'I hadn't noticed that'. It's very clever, very stimulating to the imagination."

Sunday's show begins at 2pm, and is suited for children aged three years and over.

For booking details, go to cornerstone-arts.org.

• Pirate Gran comes to Didcot's Cornerstone (Picture by Farrows Creative) and (inset) Pirate Gran children's author Geraldine Durrant

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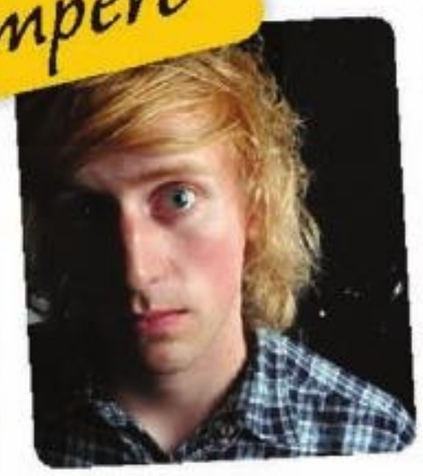

Mark Simmons

Though new to comedy, this 24-year-old has an engagingly upbeat delivery and a good smattering of decent material.

In 2009, he was a **So You Think You're Funny?** finalist

"Fantastic" – ***Tim Vine***

"Great conviction in performance" – ***Mark Dolan***

Benny Boot has been performing on the UK stand-up comedy circuit for 6yrs. He is considered by many comedians as wonderful stand-up artist to watch. Boot delivers his jokes in a unique style on variety of strange topics.

"...he's got a keen instinct for the joke, an imaginative turn of phrase and an ability to find an offbeat angle to whatever he chooses to talk about."– ***Chortle***

Open Spots

These are fairly new comedians that are looking for some practice and stage time.

Paul McGarrity

Phil Airson

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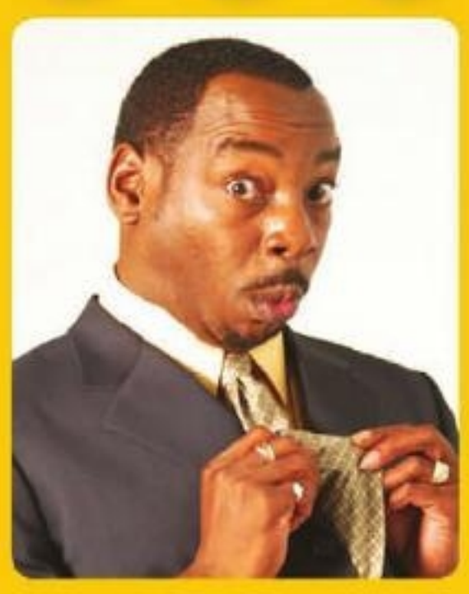

Rudi Lickwood As the top black comedian on the UK comedy circuit, Rudi Lickwood is far more than just a stand-up. Rudi's recent achievements including earning his status in the **Black 100+ awards** for the greatest Black British Achievers, picking up a **BECA** award for outstanding contribution to comedy, and taking up a high profile request for Rudi to host an exclusive Brit Awards after-show party. He regularly appears at Jongleurs (Various), The Comedy Store (London & Manchester) and Up The Creek (London & Croydon).

"Wembley should just about contain him"– ***The Stage***

Please bear in mind that this show will contain strong language and adult humour

Management Disclaimer: Please note – that while we make every effort, shows can change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances and commitments of artists

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Josh Widdicombe's brand new show, Incidentally.
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28 May 2014
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28 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
DYLAN THOMAS: RETURN JOURNEY
This remarkable and mesmerising performance from Bob Kingdom is directed by Welsh icon of stage and screen, Anthony Hopkins. The show blends Thomas' stories and poems to conjure the electrifying presence of the man himself.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 May 2014, 8:30pm
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29 May 2014 - 8 Jun 2014
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

30 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
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www.bothyvineyard.co.uk

30 May 2014, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf & Country Club on A420, east of Faringdon
STANDARD MILES
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31 May 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Who Put Bella In The Witch Elm?
21.30 The Scribers
22.15 Back Pocket Prophet
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Scenic 8k route incorporating Blenheim &
Run around the fields for smaller children
Ice cream and certificate for all children participating
Refreshments being served until 12 noon
Including Bacon Butties & Home-made Cakes
Whether you fancy a quick morning run or a leisurely stroll amongst good company please join us!
£3 entry fee in aid of Friends of Combe School
Facebook: Friends of Combe School

3 Jun 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - THE RISE AND FALL OF OUR WOOD CULTURE - DR GABRIEL HEMERY
"Over the last 350 years the nature and health of our woodlands and treescapes have changed in step with their utility. Today, perhaps more so than in the last one hundred years, great sylvan opportunities lie ahead, and some significant challenges. Dr Hemery celebrates the legacy of Evelyn's 1664 Sylva, and looks to the future.
As a practising silvologist (forest scientist) Dr Gabriel Hemery has undertaken research in subjects ranging from the walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan, to rearing chickens in farm woodlands; authoring more than 70 scientific articles. He created a new research woodland in Oxfordshire, Paradise Wood, and has planted tens of thousands of trees in field trials across Britain. His first book, The New Sylva, was published by Bloombsury in April 2014."
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

3 Jun 2014 - 5 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
St Leonard's Church, Bledington
BLEDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL
The 14th annual 3 day Festival of classical music.
www.bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk

3 Jun 2014 - 7 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
BETTY BLUE EYES
Betty Blue Eyes received rave reviews when it premiered in the West End in 2011, picking up an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Musical. This updated production featuring a 21-strong cast is directed by Daniel Buckroyd, Artistic Director of the Mercury Theatre Colchester, and is guaranteed to put a spring in your step.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

6 Jun 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
HARDEEP IS YOUR LOVE
Hardeep Singh Kohli's debut stand up Comedy show.
www.cornerstone-arts.org

7 Jun 2014, 11am - 6pm
Balliol College, Oxford
ENGLISH WINE FESTIVAL
Entrance £8. Over 100 award winning English and Welsh wines will be available to taste and some to purchase. Meet the winemakers and Masters of Wine.
www.thameschilternsvineyards.org.uk

7 Jun 2014, 7pm - 9:29pm
St helens Church, Abingdon
LANGTREE SINFONIA SPRING CONCERT
"The evening starts with the overture to Beethoven's incidental music for the play 'The Ruins of Athens'. Written in 1811, the complete music includes the famous 'Turkish' March as well as nine other numbers. Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony was inspired by his first visit to Britain in 1829. He sketched out his first ideas after a visit to Holyrood Palace in Edinburg during a walking holiday and although the work took a long time to complete it became about his most popular piece. Haydn became very popular in England, and was able to make a name for himself with works which suited the British taste. His 'Harmoniemesse' was the last of 14 masses he wrote and gets its name from the unusual prominence of wind instruments in the piece. Performing the piece tonight will be the Thames Consort and members of the Dorchester Abbey Choir.
01491 833515

7 Jun 2014 - 8 Jun 2014, 10am
Burford Recreation Field, Tanners Lane, Burford. OX18 4NB
BURFORD COLLECTORS CLUB 4TH ANNUAL RALLY
"Classic cars, Classic Motor Cycles, Commercial Vehicles, Collections, Miniature Steam, Tractors, Model Tent, Classic Caravans, Juvenile Fair and much more. Boot Sales, Trade Stands and Refreshments. There will be a Raffle and Programme draw each day."
www.burfordcollectorsclub.co.uk

10 Jun 2014 - 14 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
CATCH-22
In this landmark production of Heller's iconic text audiences can expect period music, some jitterbugging, and lots of dark humour. Explosive, subversive and funny, seminal story Catch-22 is as powerful a depiction of hope in the face of insane bureaucracy now, as it ever was.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

12 Jun 2014, 9:30am - 11:30am
Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates, OX1 1BX
FREE MAKING SENSE OF APPRENTICESHIPS EVENT FOR BUSINESSES
"Oxfordshire Apprenticeships are holding a free 'Making Sense of Apprenticeships' business briefing at Oxford Town Hall on 12 June, 9.30-11.30am. Employers thinking about taking on an Apprentice can come along for an informal Q&A session with a panel of experts and to hear from an employer and an Apprentice about their experiences. You'll get to hear all about funding, training, recruitment... and to ask any questions you may have - come along and find out how to get started!
More info and booking at http://makingsenseoxford.eventbrite.co.uk.
http://makingsenseoxford.eventbrite.co.uk

13 Jun 2014, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
CATHOLIC RECUSANCY IN OXFORDSHIRE
"By Tony Hadland. Recusants were people who, after the Reformation, refused to conform to the Church of England. This talk reveals the secretive survival of Catholicism in Oxfordshire (including former North Berkshire). A surprising number of key events in English post-Reformation Catholic history happened in the area. Examples will be given of surviving records and source of further information.
Visitors (£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

14 Jun 2014, 7:30pm - 10pm
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6RX
ST GILES ORCHESTRA CONCERT
"Liadov: Baba-Yaga; The Enchanted Lake; Kikimora
Gliere: Concerto for Coloratura Soprano (Yukiko Ishida)
Bernstein: Candide - Glitter and be Gay (Yukiko Ishida)
Rimsky Korsakov: Scheherazade
We welcome back our coloratura soprano soloist Dr Yukiko Ishida from Philadelphia USA to perform Reinhold Gliere's tuneful and unjustly neglected Concerto for Coloratura Soprano. The concert begins with three symphonic poems by the unjustly neglected Liadov who died 100 years ago, and ends with the magnificent Scheherazade.
07517487553 SalesStGilesOrchestra@gmail.com

17 Jun 2014, 6pm - 9pm
Fairacres, Marcham Road, Abingdon
MIELE SEASONAL SEAFOOD COOKERY COURSE
: Miele are joining forces with Michelin starred chef Ryan Simpson, to teach a group of passionateamateur chefs the the latest techniques in preparing and cooking seafood. As well as learning top tips from Ryan, guests will learn from the demo, how to cook two delicious seafood recipes, as well as being able to taste them afterwards! Drinks and

prices. £35 per ticket
01235 233 171

17 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
DEALER'S CHOICE
Patrick Marber's award-winning dark comedy about the gritty world ofamateur poker.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

20 Jun 2014, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
CAVALERI QUARTET
Winners of Chamber Music Residency at Oxford University give recital at JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

20 Jun 2014 - 22 Jun 2014
Hill End Outdoor Centre
TANDEM FESTIVAL
Variety of folk, jazz, afro-beat, gypsy, and experimental music
www.tandemfestival.com

21 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
"City of Oxford College Campus Open event
Saturday 21st June, 10am-2pm
http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk/city-of-Oxford-College-contact-details
For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

21 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2:59am
Blackbird leyes Campus
OPEN EVENT
http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk/city-of-Oxford-College-contact-details
For more details contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

23 Jun 2014 - 27 Jun 2014, 10am - 1pm
MS Therapy Centre (Oxfordshire) Ltd
OPEN WEEK
"Come and see what the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre offers. During the week:
Monday - NHS Physios, MS Nurse
Tuesday - MS Society, new gym equipment specialist
Wednesday - CAB, MS Society

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | LISTINGS

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for the full guide of what to see and do in Oxfordshire

Thursday - Oxfordshire Carers, MS Society
Friday - FREE therapies Tasters 15-30 minutes, just pop along to try massage, reflexology, osteopathy, physiotherapy, auricular acupuncture and foot care
01235832023 www.omstc.org

24 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
TWINS
Jack Barry and Annie McGrath are a unique young double act whose curious sketches are filled with flights of fancy and offbeat charm. Catch this preview of their delightfully deadpan sketch comedy show.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

27 Jun 2014 - 28 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
SEE WHAT I SEE
A bold dissection of the notion of sanity within Shakespeare. Eyestrings presents striking new interpretations of classic texts. Age guideline: 14+
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 Jun 2014, 7pm - 9pm
The Methodist Church, High Street, Witney
JOSEPH AND THEAMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT -AMATEUR YOUTH PRODUCTION
A lively concert performance of the songs from this popular family musical, sung by the children of Songscope - Witney Young Singers. Interpreted in sign language by Dr Paul Whittaker OBE, founder of the charity Music and the Deaf.
07786 630164 www.songscope.org

28 Jun 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 The August List
21.30 Blunderbuster
22.15 Don't Go Plastic
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/271430"
www.gappytooth.com

28 Jun 2014, 12:30pm
Kingham Primary School, west Oxfordshire
SUMMER FETE & PRIZE DRAW
"Morgan Motor Company has donated a Morgan Supersports Junior Pedal Car (worth £3000) as a prize for the school's raffle!!"

29 Jun 2014, 10am - 4pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
RARE PLANT FAIR
The chance to browse stalls manned by expert nurserymen and women specialising in both rare and traditional plants. The event costs £6.50 which includes entrance to the ornamental gardens.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk 01844 339226

29 Jun 2014, 12pm - 3pm
Combe Playing Fields
COMBE SUMMER FETE
"Wonderful day for all the family young and old.
Dog show, traditional stalls, face painting, bouncy castle, BBQ and bar, tea & home made cakes and so much more!"
Facebook: Friends of Combe School

1 Jul 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - OCEAN CIRCULATION AND CLIMATE - DR RENSKE GELDERLOOS
"The ocean plays a very important role in the Earth's climate system through storage and transport of heat, fresh water, and carbon. Dr Gelderloos will discuss the principle ocean circulation patterns and how they affect well known climatic phenomena such as El Niño and the hydrological cycle. Furthermore, as increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere affect the circulation in the ocean, this will feed back onto the climate system. Based on what we know about how the oceans affect the Earth's climate, what changes may we expect?
Dr Gelderloos is a physical oceanographer interested in subpolar and polar oceans. After specializing in fluid dynamics during a BSc and MSc in Civil Engineering at the University of Twente (Netherlands), she studied deep water formation in the Labrador Sea at KNMI/University of Utrecht for her PhD. She now work as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Earth Sciences, studying ocean dynamics in the Canadian Arctic."
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

1 Jul 2014 - 3 Jul 2014, 9pm
Burton Taylor Studio
A QUARTET OF CHEKHOV FARCES
Join MCS for a romp through Chekhov's lighter side, as they present four of his popular farces in a fast-paced evening of refined absurdity, Russian style.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

4 Jul 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
ESSEX LION
Ever seen a lion? In the wild? Step into Luke's world of romping satirical verse where posh plumbers, paunchy ex-rockers and Lovejoy roam free. Get ready to roar.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

5 Jul 2014
Burton Taylor Studio
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
"Times: 11am & 2pm
As Jack sells his cow for five magic beans and finds himself in the land above the clouds, expect lots of surprises, a gripping story and beautiful images. Age guideline: 3+"
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

6 Jul 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: STRAWBERRY DELIGHT

8 Jul 2014, 8pm
Burton Taylor Studio
MORGAN & WEST
"Time-travelling magic duo Morgan & West presents a brand new show, Parlour Tricks, chock full of jaw-dropping, brain-bursting, gasp-eliciting feats of magic.
Tickets: £8 (special preview price)
Age guideline: 7+
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

9 Jul 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
STORYSMITHS' RADICAL WOMEN
Join Rebecca Mordan, of Scary Little Girls, in this intimate evening of storytelling celebrating some of English literature's most Radical Women. Age guideline: 11+
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

10 Jul 2014 - 11 Jul 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
THE TIGER AND THE MOUSTACHE
"Saikat Ahamed traces the journey of Hashi, his mother, and the emerging nation of Bangladesh.
Tickets: £10 discounts £8
Age guideline: 12+
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

12 Jul 2014
Burton Taylor Studio
THE POETRYJOE SHOW
"Times: 11am & 2pm
Armed with his trusty overhead projector, TV's PoetryJoe introduces children and their families to lots of new friends including a naughty hamster, a cheating cheetah and a family made out of paper and light.
Age guideline: 3+
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

17 Jul 2014 - 20 Jul 2014
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
ART IN ACTION
"Annual arts festival featuring around 200 of the finest artists demonstrating in marquees. Fine food and drink, performing arts, music and practical classes where visitors can have a go at some of the many artistic disciplines. Waterperry Gardens and plant centre will be closed to all but Art in Action visitors during this event."
www.artinaction.org.uk 0207 381 3192

18 Jul 2014 - 19 Jul 2014, 7pm
The Deanery Garden, Bampton
BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA
"Gluck Il Parnaso confuso (UK staged première) and Bertoni Orfeo
Cast tbc. Thomas Blunt (conductor), Jeremy Gray (director)
Tickets: £32"
bamptonopera.org

3 Aug 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC/ OXON VEG CYCLE

29 Aug 2014 - 31 Aug 2014
Wallingford
BUNKFEST
A free-access community festival providing a unique, family friendly celebration with something for everyone including Music, Dance, Food & Trade Stalls, Workshops and a Real Ale Beer Festival
www.bunkfest.co.uk

29 Aug 2014 - 31 Aug 2014
Wallingford
BUNKFEST
A free-access community festival providing a unique, family friendly celebration with something for everyone including Music, Dance, Food & Trade Stalls, Workshops and a Real Ale Beer Festival
www.bunkfest.co.uk

5 Sep 2014, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio
THE FLOOD
Anambitious performer, Superbard weaves storytelling with original music and animation to immerse you in a drowning world.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

12 Sep 2014 - 21 Sep 2014
Burton Taylor Studio
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A DINOSAUR
"Everybody likes digging, right? Maybe you use a spade, or just your hands. Sand or earth fly everywhere until you discover something. Maybe, just maybe, it's ...a dinosaur! Oxford Playhouse presents Oxford's very own prehistoric story in this bone-shaking, belly-aching show.
Times: Various
Age guideline: 4 to 8
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Oxford Journal

Fabulous Friday Theatre Offers

TOP-PRICED THEATRE TICKET & 4 STAR LONDON HOTEL

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Choose from our selection of top West End Musicals and plays including Billy Elliot, The Lion King, Mamma Mia!, Phantom of the Opera, We Will Rock You , Wicked and more.

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Show Times

Show	Time	Ticket Face Value	Package Price per person	Offered Until
The 39 Steps	8pm	£50	£89.95	17 Oct 14
The Woman in Black	4pm or 8pm	£47.50	£89.95	12 Dec 14
Thriller Live	7:30pm	£65	£89.95	26 Sept 14
We Will Rock You	7:30pm	£66.25	£99.95	04 Apr 14
Billy Elliot	7:30pm	£68.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
I Can't Sing	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
Once	7:30pm	£69.50	£109.95	30 May 14
Phantom of the Opera	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
The Lion King	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	26 Sept 14
Mamma Mia!	7:45pm	£64	£109.95	24 Oct 14
War Horse	7:30pm	£62.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
Wicked	7:30pm	£65	£139.95	31 Oct 14
Charlie & The Chocolate Factory	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	31 Oct 14
From Here to Eternity	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	11 Apr 14

For more information or to book, please call:
01524 37500 quote OXJ
or visit: **www.oxfordjournal.theatre.travel**

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Events Ltd. ABTA Y3914. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability.

NEW ACTS & FREE PARKING

The CIRCUS Is Back In Town...

Saturday 24th May - Sunday 1st June

Shows at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm & 4.30pm

The award winning John Lawson's Circus voted 'Best Small Circus', will make its return to Millets Farm Centre during the May Half-Term.

With an entirely human cast and featuring new acts and routines including Miss Monika from Hungary with her aerial skills, Miss Georgia from Romania on the aerial rope, Ross on the rola rola and no Circus would be complete without plenty of clowning around.

This enthralling show lasts an hour and is a great family experience not to be missed!

£5.99 per person

Tickets are available to purchase online at www.milletsfarmcentre.com. We strongly advise booking early for this event!

Millets Farm Centre
Kingston Road, Frilford, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire, OX13 5HB

www.milletsfarmcentre.com

Millets Farm Centre

What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | PUZZLES

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8				6		9	2	
1	5					7	4	
			7	1		3		6
		1	6				9	
3	9		5		2		6	4
	7				4	8		
4		2		5	7			
	8	3					1	5
	6	9		2				3

1		9				6		7
	5						2	
	2		6		7		4	
		8		3		5		
	3		5		1		9	
		1		9		2		
	6		7		4		8	
	8						1	
7		4				3		5

	9				4			
5				1			3	
	2	1			8	7		
			2				7	3
		3				1		
9	6				5			
		5	8			3	6	
	4			7				2
			6				5	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 North American fish dish (7)
5 Cured meat (5)
8 Rouse (4)
9 Grace (8)
10 In a style of building (13)
13 Stimulus (4)
14 Elliptical (4)
17 Place of business (13)
19 Confidence (8)
20 Grass with hollow stem (4)
21 Having got up (5)
22 Worthless (7)

Quick Clues Down

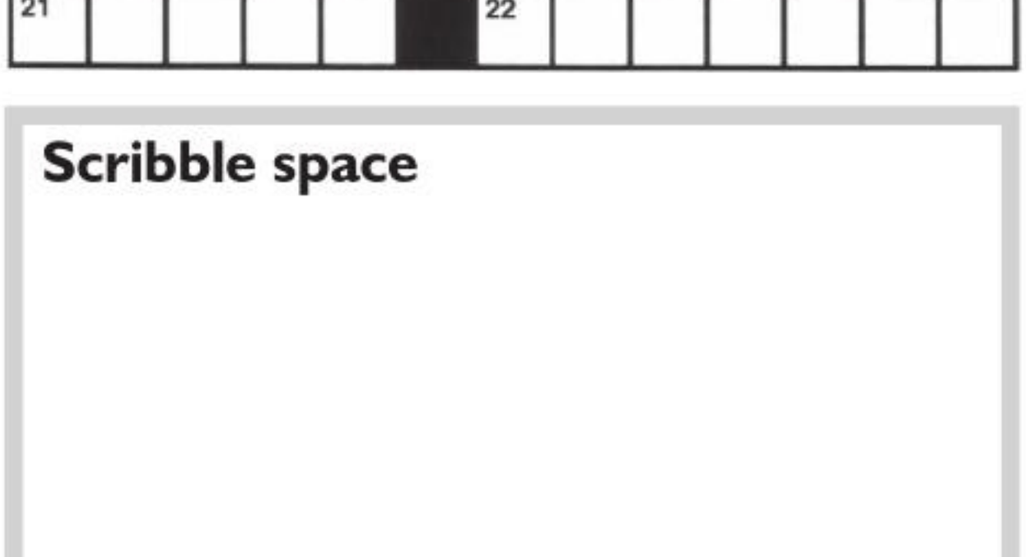
2 Those with strong dislikes (6)
3 Reverence (7)
4 Concerned with voting (9)
5 Narrow-minded person (5)
6 Exercise authority over (7)
7 Irritates (7)
11 Places of religious seclusion (9)
12 More obvious (7)
13 Pays up (7)
15 Naval officer (7)
16 Enrages (6)
18 Seat of the intellect (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

1 A sailor, mark, will do without (7)
5 The peak reached by a hundred with the remainder following (5)
8 Strikes back to kill (4)
9 Ban the former list (8)
10 Being urged to use too little steam? (5,8)
13 A sure way to set a trap (4)
14 The advantage of being on the outside (4)
17 Examination of how to bury the prayer (13)
19 Out or inside contempt (8)
20 Time to go back and give out (4)
21 Sees a new way and relaxes (5)
22 Communication about the turmoil of the era? (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Mr Crosby takes it up in mordant fashion (6)
3 Picture forbidden round the meadow (7)
4 Are opting out to get the highest speed (2,3,4)
5 Suits the societies (5)
6 Period certain to be scrubbed out? (7)
7 Put us after these to kill the Minotaur (7)
11 The outcome when the crisis had a different end? (9)
12 Can the end slip out of the yarn-holder? (7)
13 Gets weary again when he leaves work (7)
15 Deduces that the gun belongs to a lady (7)
16 Expecting to nip up and have an unfair share outside (6)
18 Unruly tress is at ease (5)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

3	1	7	4	6	9	5	8	2
2	5	4	8	1	7	6	3	9
9	6	8	5	3	2	1	4	7
5	2	9	7	8	4	3	1	6
7	4	6	3	5	1	2	9	8
1	8	3	2	9	6	4	7	5
8	9	2	6	4	3	7	5	1
6	3	5	1	7	8	9	2	4
4	7	1	9	2	5	8	6	3

5	8	2	3	1	7	6	4	9
7	1	3	9	4	6	2	5	8
6	4	9	8	5	2	3	7	1
2	5	8	1	7	3	9	6	4
3	7	1	4	6	9	8	2	5
9	6	4	5	2	8	1	3	7
8	2	5	7	3	1	4	9	6
1	3	7	6	9	4	5	8	2
4	9	6	2	8	5	7	1	3

6	5	9	4	8	3	7	1	2
2	3	4	7	1	5	6	9	8
1	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	3
9	2	5	3	4	1	8	6	7
7	1	8	6	9	2	4	3	5
3	4	6	8	5	7	9	2	1
5	7	2	9	3	6	1	8	4
8	6	1	5	2	4	3	7	9
4	9	3	1	7	8	2	5	6

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Upholsterer 9 Ear 10 Centipede 11 Minor 13 Amongst 14 Negate 16 Fetter 18 Titanic 19 Pacer 20 Reversals 21 His 22 Adolescents

Down: 2 Par 3 Occur 4 Sandal 5 Episode 6 Energetic 7 Germinators 8 Letterpress 12 Negatived 15 Tendril 17 Scraps 19 Paste 21 Hut

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Entertained 9 Out 10 Intestate 11 Knave 13 Emerald 14 Artist16 Stripe 18 Syringa 19 Dogma 20 Inaudible 21 Pie 22 Replacement

Down: 2 Net 3 Elite 4 Titled 15 Inspect 6 Emanating 7 Workmanship 8 Needle cases 12 Alternate 15 Synodal 17 Iambic 19 Dream 21 Pin

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Oxford Property

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

Thursday, May 22 - Wednesday, May 28, 2014

This semi-detached home in a quiet Littlemore cul-de-sac has potential to be converted into a three-bed. It has a porch, lounge, and spacious kitchen-diner and back garden. For more details contact Connells Cowley Telephone 01865 748 448 or e-mail cowley@connells.co.uk

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SPEND £1101 - £2200 get an extra 15% discount

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39
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OPEN HOUSE EVENT- SATURDAY 31st MAY 2014, MIDDDAY UNTIL 3PM, CALL EARLY TO BOOK AS HIGH DEMAND EXPECTED Situated in the extremely desirable Quarry Conservation area, this charming cottage was built in the 1870's and features Two Reception rooms,Two Bedrooms and a rear garden of around 140'.

Benson Road
Oxford
£300,000

OPEN HOUSE. SATURDAY 12TH APRIL. PLEASE CALL FOR AN EARLY BOOKING TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AS DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH A chain free, three bedroom semi detached property with two reception rooms and a downstairs cloakroom, off road parking and an enclosed rear garden.

Pond House
Oxford
£900,000

An exceptional detached four bedroom, three reception room family residence, much improved with great attention to detail. The property is situated in generous grounds within the desirable village of Horton-cum-Studley.

Gidley Way
Oxford
£575,000

Allen and Harris are delighted to present this spacious five bedroom chalet bungalow in the highly sought after village of Horspath. As well as a beautiful garden with views over rolling countryside the excellent links to the many historical attractions and shopping opportunities Oxford city centre.

12
Oxford
£450,000

Situated in the desirable village of Wheatley, which offers excellent access to Oxford City and the A/M40 for transportation links to the wider area. This extremely well proportioned modern detached family residence offers Three Reception Rooms, Four Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms and Cloakroom and Garage.

Spring Lane
Headington
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Cuddesdon Way
Oxford
£237,500

A good sized three bedroom mid-terraced property situated in this popular location. Boasting a lounge open plan to dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, utility area, three spacious bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, a private garden with park for two and garage to rear. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Birch Road, Garsington
£275,000

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£229,950

Oxford

A three bedroom property on the popular Spencer Crescent in Rose Hill. Offering Entrance pourch, Entrance hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Enclosed rear garden, Driveway parking, Family bathroom, Upstairs are two double bedrooms and a further single bedroom,

£485,000

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Nowell Road
Oxford
£240,000

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OXFORD £1,650

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Horspath £2,100

FANTASTIC DETACHED VILLAGE HOME- situated in the heart of Horspath yet with very easy access to Oxford and the M40.A must see property,Call today to avoid disappointment.EPC Rating:C

Cowley £1,200

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Aylesbury £1,250

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EPC Rating: Awaited

Cowley — £275,000

SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED !!!

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EPC Rating: Awaited

Stadhampton — £475,000

A SUPERB four bedroom DETACHED VILLAGE property offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN. Offering stylish and spacious accommodation over two floors, two reception rooms, cloakroom and MASTER SUITE. EPC: Awaited

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Littlemore — £220,000

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EPC Rating: C

Sandford-on-Thames — £130,000

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Windmill Road £480,000

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Aysgarth Road £400,000

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Old Road £450,000

Detached family home. Spacious accommodation over two levels with room to extend (subject to planning). Located within walking distance of the Nuffield Hospital. Energy rating: F.

Barton Road £215,000

Offered with no onward chain, well proportioned ground floor flat. Currently used as a family home but would also be ideal as an investment. Energy rating: D.

Coverley Road £300,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Currently HMO Licensed, this spacious detached property is situated on a corner plot within walking distance to London Road.

Rutten Lane £375,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow in historic village of Yarnton. Set back from the main street the property offers great access to local amenities.

Merewood Avenue £425,000

Situated in Sandhills this property is deceptively large this extended semi detached property is ideal for larger families and investors alike. Offered with no onward chain or tenants in situ.

Nuffield Road £300,000

Three bedroom home with access to local amenities, offering good public transport links and conveniently situated to access The Nuffield Hospital and Churchill Hospital. Energy Rating: D.

Cranley Road £240,000

Well presented family home, offered with no chain.

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Littleworth Park £75,000

Generous one bedroom park home with parking and gardens. Altered from the original two bedrooms the space has been reconfigured to offer a spacious bathroom and fitted wardrobes to master bedroom.

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The property comprises of living space over four floors, consisting of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom & Spacious Lounge and is presented in excellent order throughout.

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Barton Village Road £230,000

Well presented end of terrace home. The property offers lounge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms, off road parking for approximately three vehicles and access to rear garden.

Oxford £155,000

The property is well presented & offers: lounge, diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master & family bathroom. Externally the property offers surrounding gardens with decked area & parking on a drive.

East Field Close £450,000

An attractive detached property offering great access to the ring road, local hospitals & bus routes.

Hengrove Close £230,000

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this property is a great family home, offering: lounge, kitchen/diner, three well proportioned bedrooms, bathroom, parking & front & rear gardens.

Brome Place £170,000

Well presented one double bedroom flat with lounge/diner, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and hobby room. The property would be ideal as a starter home or as an investment. Energy Rating: C.

London Road £210,000

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Colemans Hill £250,000

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Collinwood Road £325,000

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Holloway £275,000

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Cranley Road £90,000

DEVELOPMENT PLOT Planning approved for a one bedroom house to be developed to the side of a three bedroom semi detached property. Viewing advised and further plans available in branch.

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WIN a meal for two at new-look PizzaExpress Abingdon

PIZZAEXPRESS is celebrating the launch of its exciting new-look restaurant at Abingdon on 20 May by offering five fabulous prizes of a meal for two to the value of £40!

Located in a Grade II listed building in in Stert Street, the restaurant boasts a beautiful al fresco dining area, perfect for the summer, as well as a separate dining area for parties.

Manager, Aga Candan, said, "We have a friendly and enthusiastic team who are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our beautifully refurbished restaurant over a delicious pizza."

PizzaExpress has been dishing up fresh, handmade pizza to Abingdon since 1996 and has a fantastic new menu. Its Leggera range includes skinny pizzas with fewer than 500 calories and the Superfood Salad is packed full of nutritious ingredients containing just 295 calories. PizzaExpress has also introduced gluten-free choices to its menu including a gluten-free pizza base.

For younger pizza-lovers, PizzaExpress' Piccolo menu is full of tasty choices including 'Create Your Own' pizza. And for budding chefs looking to celebrate a birthday, a Pizza Making Party will see them transformed into mini-chefs (or pizzaiolas) so they can stretch, toss and top their own pizza and play a game before sitting down to enjoy their culinary creations. So kids don't have all the fun, adult Pizza Making Parties can be arranged on request.

Closing date:
Friday, May 30, 2014

And the restaurant runs free visits for local primary schools, turning the kitchens into classrooms.

For more details visit www.pizza-express.com.

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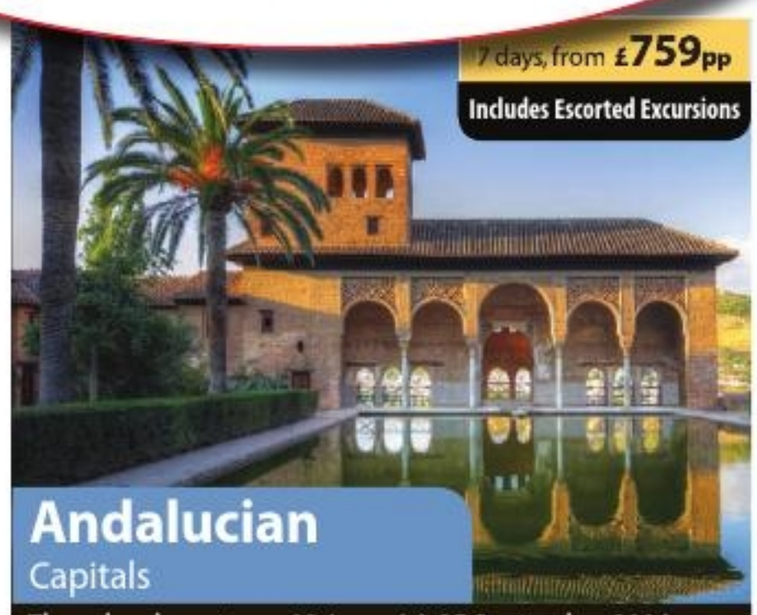

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From Gatwick airport

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From Gatwick airport

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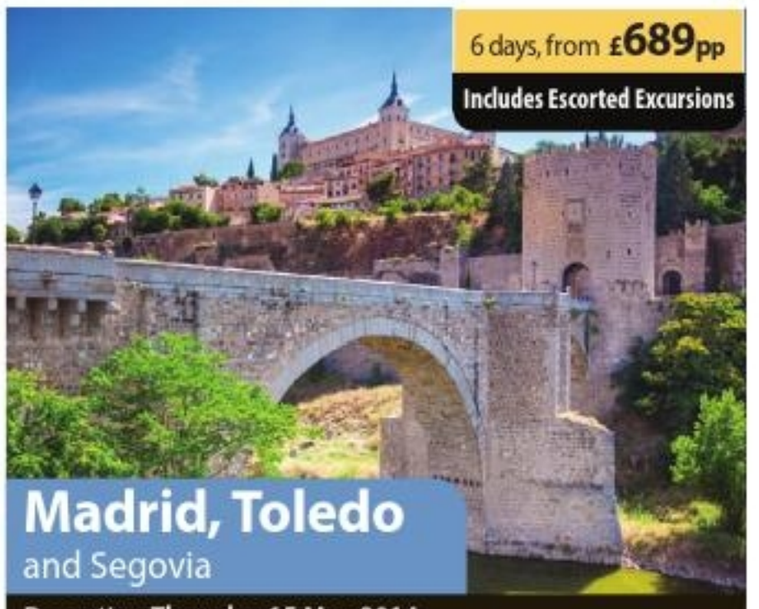

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FEATURE

And they call it poppy love...

During the First World War, the blasted and bombed battlefields across Europe created ideal conditions for the poppy to flourish

By Hannah Stephenson
news@oxfordhireguardian.co.uk

IT WAS a sight which, in 1915, inspired Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the well-known war poem In Flanders Fields, with poppies growing there 'row on row', and a s such, this vivid red flower has become synonymous with the great loss of life and sacrifices made in war.

This year, to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, p oppy displays will rightly abound nationwide.

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is creating a poppy field to be in full bloom in late July, Gunby Hall and Gardens in Lincolnshire has its own poppy trail, and there's poppy planting at Sheffield Park in East Sussex (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and beautiful displays at Dyrham Park near Bath.

Poppies will also feature heavily in Birmingham City Council's exhibit in the Great Pavilion at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year, while t ens of thousands of poppies have also been sown by children, soldiers, civic leaders, community organisations, clergy and faith groups nationwide as a joint act of remembrance.

The field poppy or corn poppy, Papaver rhoeas, is the poppy of wartime remembrance. This annual flower can lie dormant for many years before germination which is then often triggered when the soil is disturbed. It's perfect planted in a sunny wildflower garden or a meadow where it will self-seed freely.

Throughout history, a new generation of corn poppies was germinated each year as land was ploughed and grain scattered. It is a plant relevant to many cultures - to the Egyptians it symbolised blood and rebirth, while the Romans hailed it as the sacred crop of Ceres.

Its family, papaveraceae, is relatively small, with less than 800 species, but the types vary greatly in size and colour. Among the largest are the flowers of P. orientale Goliath Group, appearing atop shoulder-high stems. The petals share the same tissue-paper look as their smaller cousins, yet poppy types range from the toughest hardy perennials to pretty annuals, from giants with tall spires such as P. pilosum, to ground-hugging alpines. They are all followed by round decorative seedpods.

By far the most showy and most familiar in the garden is Papaver orientale, which adds dramatic highlights to early summer with their spectacular blooms. The typical oriental poppy is a hardy perennial which produces scarlet flowers with a black blotch at the bottom of each petal, but you can get other colours including pink, orange, white and plum. Stunning varieties include 'Mrs Perry', with large salmon-pink blooms and 'Patty's Plum', which is dark and dramatic.

Most named oriental poppies are sterile and can be propagated by root cuttings, while species poppies rely on seed to keep them going. P. somniferum, the opium poppy enjoyed for its ornamental value, is a prolific self-seeder, but it's best to save some of its seeds to sow where you actually want them to be.

All poppies have a dainty appearance but many don't need staking. However, you must remove the dead blooms to prolong the flowering season. Good companions to oriental poppies include the frothy flowers of Gypsophila paniculata, penstemon and agapanthus.

Most poppies prefer sun and moist soil but several, including the Welsh poppy, Meconopsis cambrica, prefer stretches of woodland in dappled shade, where they colonise ground between bluebells and wood

Above: A field of poppies. Photo: PA Photo/Steve Patterson

Left: Family visitors enjoying poppiesin the garden at Dyrham Park, Gloucestershire. Picture credit should read: PA Photo/Image courtesy of National Trust Images/Arnhel de Serra.

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For further details, telephone 01235 817200 or refer to the website; www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk

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First Class Plus	£135	£105	Oxford	06:30	22:00
Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30

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Standard Class	£79	£39	Banbury	07:00	22:50
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The Honda Civic scooped an award for milage rates at Honest John car website

Drivers vote Honda top car

THE Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC was awarded the best Real MPG vehicle this month at the Honest John car awards for 2014.

The awards for popular car website Honest John asked drivers to submit how many miles their cars actually do to the gallon and collated more than 50,000 entries, covering all major manufacturers and models.

The Honda Civic scored the best total for the past 12 months, with an impressive average of 66.2mpg.

Honest John's Real MPG calculator was launched in June 2011 to offer a real world alternative to official quoted MPG figures.

The website also rated the 1.6 i-DTEC engine as best small diesel on the market.

Dan Harrison, editor of honestjohn.co.uk said: "We rate the Honda 1.6 i-DTEC engine as the best small diesel on the market with its refined nature and impressive performance. And further enhancing its appeal is its real world fuel economy.

"Figures submitted to Real MPG over the last 12 months show a realistic economy figure of 66.2mpg.

REVIEW: Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC

By **Katriona Ormiston**

@writeonmotoring

"At a time when running costs are a key factor in choosing a car, the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC makes a very strong case for itself."

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "This award once again confirms the incredible efficiency of the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC and the reputation of its light but powerful engine as the best small diesel on the UK market.

"With ratings based on the experiences of thousands of everyday drivers, these figures show just how the Civic performs in real-world conditions."

The Honda Civic combines fuel economy and performance – emitting 94 g/km of CO2 with a powerful 120PS.

The engine was the first to be launched in Europe under Honda's environmental programme called Earth Dreams Technology.

The Best Real MPG award came hot on the heels of Honest John naming Honda as the top performing manufacturer for MoT pass rates.

• *The Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC*

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SR in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 emissions: 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SR Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £24,360 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SR Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 30 June 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. **It is being offered for £500 including VAT** (usual value £1,845 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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2006 56	Honda Civic ES I-Ctdi 5dr 2.2 Diesel 6-Speed Manual 89950 Miles	£5,395
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2003 53	Honda CRV 2.0 Manual Petrol, 4x4 in Blue, 91,000 miles	£3,495
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2001 51	Mazda MX-5 Convertible 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 84227 Miles	£2,695
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MINI

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2003 53	Nissan Navara Pick-Up Navara Double Cab TD Diesel 5-Speed Manual 93600 Miles	£5,295
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2006 06	Nissan Note Sve 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 33330 Miles	£4,495
2003 52	Nissan Micra 1.0E 5dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 76960 Miles	£2,495
2000 W	Nissan Almera S 5dr 1.5 - TAXED END MAY 14 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 42120 Miles	£1,995
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2012 12	Peugeot RCZ Thp GT 1.6 Petrol 6-Speed Manual 24050 Miles	£14,995
2006 06	Peugeot 206 SW Verve 1.4 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 54990 Miles	£3,295
2006 55	Peugeot 407 SW SE, Petrol 6-Speed Manual 103840 Miles	£2,795
2000 W	Peugeot 106 1.1 Zest 2 5dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 64015 Miles	£1,295

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2006 06	Renault Megane Dynamique VVT 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 36120 Miles	£4,695
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2006 06	SEAT Ibiza T Fr 20v 3dr 150 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 84236 Miles	£2,795

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2007 57	Suzuki SX4 GL 5dr 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 55980 Miles	£3,995

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2005 05	Toyota Corolla Verso T2 VVT-I 7 SEATS Petrol Automatic 79000 Miles	£3,995
2002 52	Toyota Yaris 1.0 Colour Collection VVT-I 3dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 58410 Mile	£2,695
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2009 59	Vauxhall Corsa Active 3dr 1.0 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 14990 Miles	£5,695
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7). Extra urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.

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Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.'Offers subject to availability, all figures correct at time of going to press May 2014. *Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are only available from Hartwell Oxford Seat. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Selected models only. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities maybe required. Finance through Seat finance. **Savings shown against manufacturer recommended retail price (MRRP). Models shown for illustration purposes only.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Focus ST3 2.0 EcoBoost Petrol (250PS) : urban 28.5 (9.9), extra urban 50.4 (5.6), combined 39.2 (7.2). Official CO2 emission 169.0g/km. Retail only. Metallic paint extra cost. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Details correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability. Contact us for terms and conditions. Applies to new vehicles, contracted and registered between 16.05.2014 and 31.05.2014 for full terms and conditions please our sales team offer excludes Ka , Tourneo Connect and Ranger models

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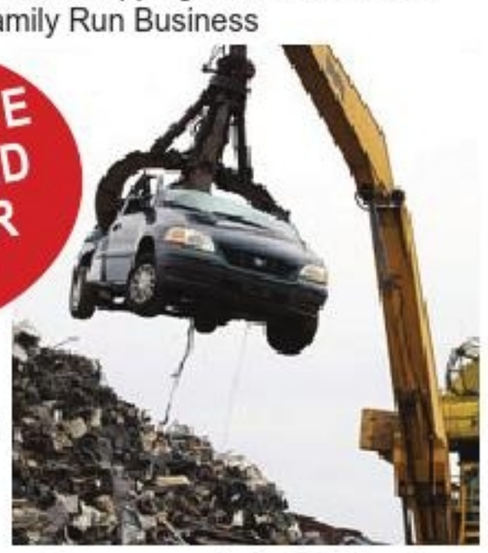

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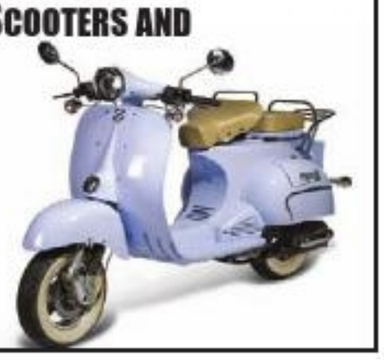

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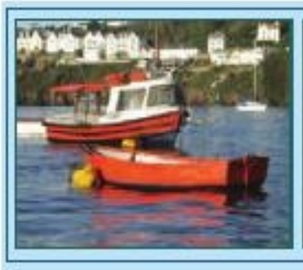

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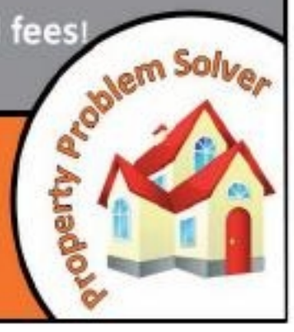

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Burnell hails Exiles' spirited comeback

LONDON Welsh head coach Justin Burnell praised his "special breed" of players after the Exiles booked their place in the Greene King IPA Championship final with a pulsating semi-final victory over Leeds Carnegie.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Fly-half Gordon Ross landed what proved to be the match-winning penalty, securing a 29-20 win, 60-58 on aggregate, and setting the stage for a final against Bristol Rugby.

The Dragons were staring defeat in the face, but their determination saw them overcame a 13-point deficit in the last 12 minutes, thanks to tries from Seb Stegmann and Ollie Stedman and Ross' late penalty.

"There's a special breed here," said Burnell.

"The way they have been brought up is the way I was brought up.

"You've got to work hard for everything in life nowadays and I think that is what they proved.

"We want success and the only way you get that is by rolling up those sleeves and punching your guts out."

At half-time Welsh led the match 11-7, trailing Leeds by three points on aggregate, and after Ross and Leeds' Alex Lozowski exchanged penalties the tie was turned on its head.

Carl Kirwan was sent to the sin-bin and Leeds took full advantage with Lozowski converting Charlie Beech's try, before the latter added a further three points.

Despite being a man down, Welsh continued to press and Kirwan's return from the bin coincided with Stegmann going over in the corner on 79 minutes.

Ross did well to convert the try, putting the Exiles into the ascendency, and minutes later Stedman found the whitewash to cut the deficit to one point.

The Exiles forced themselves within range and after Leeds were penalised on the floor, Ross stepped up to complete an extraordinary comeback.

Centre Seb Jewell said: "It could have easily been over and that's what we talked about at half-time.

• *Seb Stegmann goes over for London Welsh (Picture by Martin John)*

"We don't perform and this is it. We never play with these boys, we don't see them again because boys are moving on, but it's a special bunch here.

"We've fought very hard all season and we want to play two more weeks which we've achieved."

The first leg of the final will be played at the Kassam Stadium next Wednesday evening. Kick-off is at 7.45pm.

Smith rounds out top ten at French GP

OXFORD MotoGP rider Bradley Smith was unable to capitalise on a strong start, eventually finishing the French Grand Prix at Le Mans in 10th position.

Smith started 10th, but jumped up to fifth off the start, and hassled the top four as he attempted to progress further.

He was soon shuffled back into eighth before becoming involved in a battle with Andrea Dovizioso and Aleix Espargaro in the closing stages, dropping back to 10th as a result.

"I made a great start and managed to go around the outside of the first corner and recover several positions," said Smith.

"But already by turn three I knew that my lack of side grip would probably affect my race.

"However, I still gave it my all during qualifying and the race, but all weekend we were not as strong as we hoped to be.

"I'm still pleased that I finished the race, collecting valuable points, and look forward to the next race in Mugello, which is one of my favourite tracks where I hope to get higher up the field."

Smith is ninth in the standings with 34 points, 94 behind championship leader Marc Marquez, who has won every race this season so far.

We hate losing, says Dragons hero Ross

VETERAN fly-half Gordon Ross said London Welsh's dramatic semi-final comeback was down to the fact that he and his teammates simply hate losing.

Ross, 36, who struggled for most of the afternoon with the boot, kicked what turned out to be the match-winning penalty to secure a 29-20 second leg win.

The Exiles will now face Bristol Rugby in the Greene King IPA Championship final, with the first leg to be played at the Kassam Stadium on May 28.

Ross said: "There's a few guys out there who have been around the block a couple of times and we don't like losing.

"Justin Burnell has created that culture and we just dug in.

"It was obviously disappointing personally from the boot, but fortunately we got through it by the skin of our teeth."

Head coach Burnell said he never doubted the former Scotland international's kicking ability.

"He's a quality player, everyone has a bad day," said Burnell. "Gordon is Gordon, he was always going to kick it.

"People around me said 'shall we kick for the corner', I said 'no he'll kick it' and he did."

• *Gordon Ross (Picture by Martin John)*

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Whing and Clarke will miss pre-season preparations

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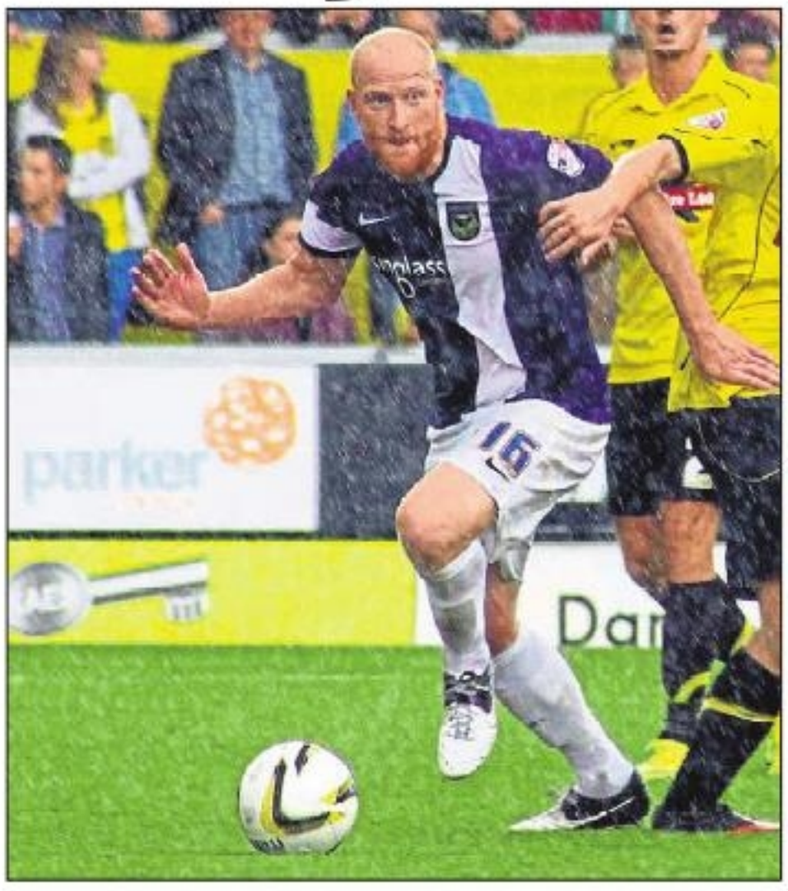

• *Andy Whing and Ryan Clarke will miss pre-season as they will both undergo operations this summer (Pictures by Steve Daniels)*

OXFORD United have been hit by a double injury blow after it was revealed Andy Whing and Ryan Clarke require operations to resolve troublesome injuries.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The club confirmed earlier this week that Whing, 29, and Clarke, 32, are both likely to miss pre-season.

Whing, who has had an injury-hit season, will go under the knife this week for an operation on his hip.

Meanwhile, Clarke, United's player of the season, will have an operation on his foot and is likely to miss the first month of next season.

Manager Gary Waddock said it was a "shame" to see two experienced players on the injury list.

"They are both long-term injuries that need to be resolved," he said. "Having the operations early in the summer will give them both a little extra recovery time.

"You don't want to set time scales on these sort of things, but they are good pros and we know they will work hard and look to get back as soon as possible."

Waddock added: "In Whingy's case we have Danny Rose, Jon Meades and Josh Ruffels competing for midfield places and Johnny Mullins will be back in pre-season and can play that holding role as well."

Clarke's injury will allow 20-year-old Max Crocombe an opportunity to break into the first team.

The New Zealand under-20 international has made four first team appearances, but didn't feature in United's 2013/14 season.

Waddock said: "With Ryan we are very fortunate to have Max Crocombe available.

"He has had to be patient, but deserves the opportunity to have a run of games in the side. He is someone we all believe has great ability and real potential."

On Tuesday, Matt Bevans signed a new one-year deal, while United announced they will play Championship side Wolves in a pre-season friendly on July 29.

Dramatic win sees Welsh reach final

LONDON Welsh produced a last-gasp fightback to beat Leeds Carnegie last Sunday and book their place in the Greene King IPA Championship final.

The Exiles, who trailed by seven-points ahead of the second leg, beat Leeds 29-20 to win the semi-final 60-58 on aggregate.

The Exiles will now face Bristol Rugby in the two-legged final.

For match reaction, see inside sport.

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